

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 CU-04 AID-05 /098 W

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R 231130Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 765

INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0700

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, GB, EK

SUBJ: LIBERATION FRONT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA

REF: (A) LIBREVILLE 451 (NOTAL) (B) YAOUNDE 1186 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: TWO MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE LIBERATION FRONT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA CALLED AT EMBASSY MARCH 18 TO DELIVER LETTER TO EQUATORIAL GUINEA DESK OFFICER, MARCUS. LETTER REQUESTED INTER ALIA US ASSISTANCE TO OVERTHROW MASIE NGUEMA. EMBOFF TOLD THEM ONLY CONCEIVABLE ASSISTANCE WOULD BE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH UNHCR. SITUATION OF EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEES IN GABON DESCRIBED AS SATISFACTORY. END SUMMARY.

2. TWO MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF LIBERATION FRONT OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA (FRENTE DE LIBERACION DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL OR FRELIGE) CALLED AT EMBASSY MARCH 18 TO DELIVER LETTER TO "THE PERSON IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR EQUATORIAL GUINEA," RANDOLPH MARCUS, DLHO THEY UNDERSTOOD WAS VISITING GABON. AS MARCUS HAD DEPARTED MARCH 1, DCM
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RECEIVED THEM.

3. LETTER SAID FRELIGE, HEADED BY ADOLFO OBIANG PRESENTLY RESIDING IN UNITED STATES, WAS FORMED IN 1970 BY THE OLD COMMITTEE OF MONALIGE (MOVIMIENTO NACIONAL DE LIBERACION DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL) AND CLAIMS TO BE COMPOSED OF ELEMENTS FROM: (A) MUNGE (MOVIMIENTO DE UNION NACIONAL DE

GUINEA ECUATORIAL) LED BY FORMER PRESIDENT OF EG'S "AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT," BONIFACE ONDO EDU; (B) IPGE (IDEA POPULAR DE GUINEA ECUATORIAL) LED BY JOVINO DUE; (C) MONALIGE LED BY FORMER FOREIGN MINISTER ATANASIO NDONG AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF GUINEAN ASSEMBLY PASTOR TORAO AND (D) UNION BUBI LED BY FORMER EG VICE PRESIDENT EDMUNDO BOSIO. LETTER LAMENTS LACK OF WORLD REACTION TO "MOST SAVAGE AND BRUTAL REPRESSION WITHOUT PRECEDENT IN THE HISTORY OF AFRICA" AND ASKS FOR US HELP TO LIBERATE NATION FROM FRANCISCO MACIAS NGUEMA. LETTER WAS SIGNED BY SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE "AT THE GENERAL BASE OF OPERATIONS IN LIBREVILLE," AND DELIVERED BY MARTIN ESONO MITOGO, "OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF FRELIGE IN GABON" AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER LEANDRO NDUMU.

4. MITOGO AND NDUMU CLAIMED FRELIGE MEMBERSHIP OF SOME 20,000 INSIDE AND OUTSIDE EG WITH THE BULK OF THEIR MEMBERS IN GABON BUT WITH REPRESENTATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND HOLLAND. THEY KNEW OF BUT HAD NO CONTACT WITH DEMOCRATIC UNION OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA (UDGE) GROUP BASED IN CAMEROON (REFTEL B). ALTHOUGH THEY THEMSELVES ARE FANGS, THEY CLAIMED EVERY ETHNIC GROUP INCLUDING CREOLES ON THE MAINLAND AND FERNANDO POO REPRESENTED IN FRELIGE.

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5. DCM REPLIED THAT THERE ABSOLUTELY NO POSSIBILITY USG ASSISTANCE SUPPORT FOR OVERTHROW OF SOVERIGN GOVERNMENTS WHICH IS CONTRARY TO US POLICY NO MATTER HOW REPRESSIVE REGIME MIGHT APPEAR. WE WOULD, HOWEVER, TRANSMIT LETTER. ONLY CONCEIVABLE ASSISTANCE TO EQUATORIAL GUINEAN REFUGEES WOULD BE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE THROUGH GENERAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR (AN OFFICE OPENED IN LIBREVILLE EARLIER THIS YEAR). IN RESPONSE QUERIES, MITOGO STATED THIS FIRST TIME THEY HAD APPROACHED ANOTHER GOVERNMENT IN LIBREVILLE FOR ASSISTANCE AND HAD COME TO US UNDER INSTRUCTION FROM FRELIGE US OFFICE. HE ALSO STATED THAT THEY RECEIVED NO ASSISTANCE FROM GOG.

6. IN GENERAL DISCUSSION OF STATUS EG REFUGEES GABON, MITOGO AND NDUMU SAID THEY GENERALLY WELL TREATED BY GOG. THEY ESTIMATE THEIR NUMBER AT ABOUT 70,000 WHICH IS USUAL ESTIMATE WE HEAR. MOST ARE FANGS AND INTEGRATED INTO GABONESE TRIBAL STRUCTURE WITH RELATIVELY LITTLE DIFFICULTY. NONE ARE IN REFUGEE CAMPS. THEY CLAIM GOG IS UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ISSUING IDENTITY DOCUMENTS. MAIN PROBLEM IS THAT SINCE END OF LIBREVILLE'S OAU BUILDING BOOM, THERE IS MUCH LESS OPPORTUNITY FOR WORK BECAUSE MOST ARE UNSKILLED.

THEY STATED THE GABONESE "CENSUS" CONDUCTED LAST MONTH (REFTEL A) WAS CARRIED OUT WITH A MINIMUM OF OFFICIAL HARASSMENT. THEY CONSIDERED IT QUITE NORMAL THAT ANYONE WITHOUT PROPER PAPERS SHOULD BE ROUNDED UP, STATED THAT EVERYTHING WAS BACK TO NORMAL NOW AND THAT NO EQUATORIAL GUINEANS WERE BEING DETAINED AS A DIRECT RESULT OF FEBRUARY "CENSUS." THEY ALSO SUPPORTED OFFICIAL GABONESE EXPLANATION THAT ANY VIOLENCE INFLICTED ON EQUATORIAL GUINEAN COMMUNITY DURING THAT TIME HAD BEEN BY PRIVATE GABONESE CITIZENS AND NOT POLICE. (L'UNION REPORTED MARCH 8 THAT SEVERAL GABONESE HAD BEEN TRIED AND SENTENCED FOR VIOLENCE AGAINST EG COMMUNITY.) YATES

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